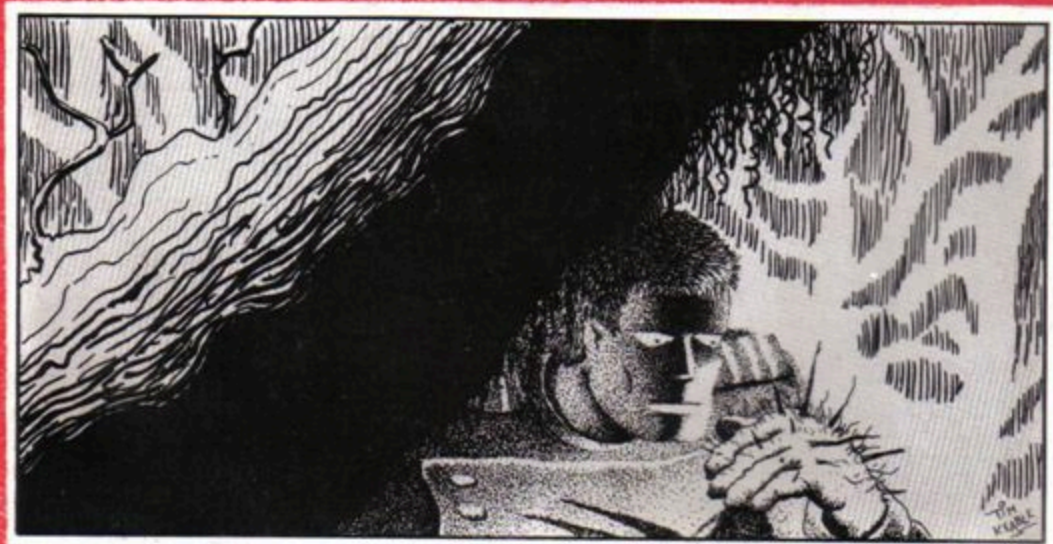
terry nation's

MISSION to the UNKNOWN

Graphic Novel

by

tim keable



INTRODUCTION

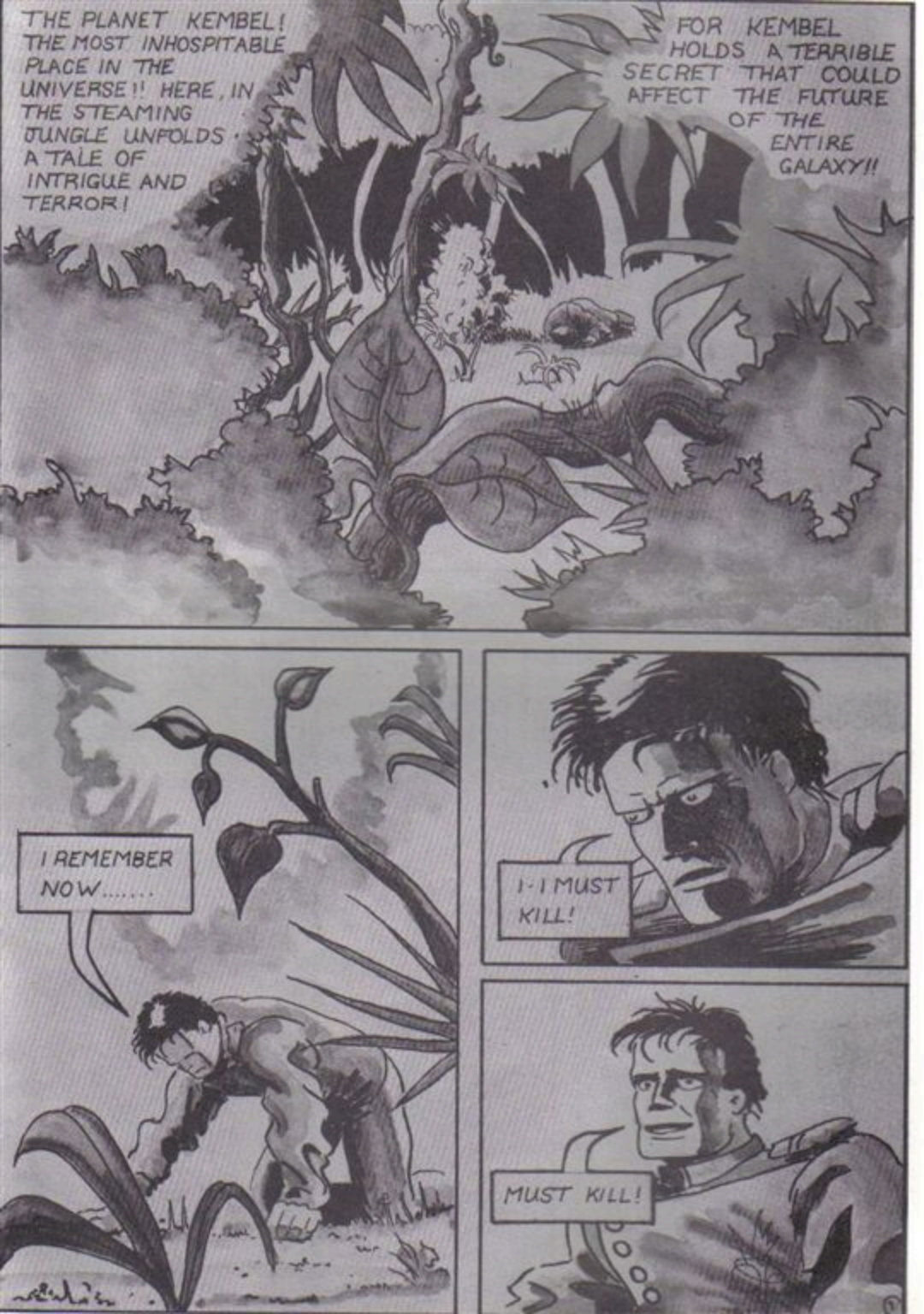
I have to say that I'm extraordinarily flattered to have been asked by Tim to do the introduction to his first major *Doctor Who* work. I've been something of a fan of Tim's work ever since I saw of the material he contributed to the old Hampshire based fanzine *The Time Meddler*. On the strength of that I asked him if I could use one of his pieces in my 'zine, *Shada*. The reception that drawing got convinced me that there were a great many other people out there who appreciated artwork that was different from the norm - ie it didn't copy obviously from photographs.

The next exposure I had to Tim's material was when he started to draw some covers for *Audio Visuals*, an amateur dramatics group who perform original *Doctor Who* plays on audio tape. He drew both the cassette cover and presentation box for Ed Taylor's *Blood Circuit* and later followed that with the cover to Arthur Wallis' *Secret of Nematoda*. The imagination and detail that went into such small pieces of artwork convinced me that Tim really ought to be doing comic strips - indeed, the same *Nematoda* story started life as a collaboration in comic form between Arthur and Tim, although it was then called *Airholes*. Perhaps one day, I'll convince Tim to brush the dust off that and issue it.

Not being an arty person myself I can't claim to know that Tim's artwork is as good as or even better than artists with similar "unique" styles like Bill Sienkiewicz or David McKean, but I do know that I like it enormously and can only hope that this much needed adaptation of one of the less well-known *Doctor Who* episodes, *Mission To The Unknown* based on Terry Nation's script, brings Tim to a much wider audience.

In the meantime, to you who've shelled out the hard cash for this item, and I really don't think you'll be disappointed, I to recommend you try to get Tim's next project when it comes out, called *Rochelle*.
Till then, let Tim know what you think of *Mission* and maybe you'll convince him to have a go at another "lost" *Doctor Who* story.

Gary Russell
December 1987


THE PLANET KEMBEL! THE MOST INHOSPITABLE PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE!! HERE, IN THE STEAMING JUNGLE UNFOLDS A TALE OF INTRIGUE AND TERROR!
FOR KEMBEL HOLDS A TERRIBLE SECRET THAT COULD AFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE ENTIRE GALAXY!!
I REMEMBER NOW.....
I-I MUST KILL!
MUST KILL!

NOT FAR AWAY TWO MEN WORK FRANTICLY TO REPAIR THEIR STRICKEN SHIP
WHY YOU WANTED TO LAND ON A PLANET LIKE THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE I'LL NEVER KNOW!!
A SPINE CHILLING HOWL ECHOES THROUGH THE TREES.
ROWWW!
THIS PLACE IS GETTING ON MY NERVES!
YES I'D HATE TO THINK WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL MAKES A NOISE LIKE THAT!
THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER!!
ALL THE MORE REASON TO STOP TALKING AND GET ON WITH THE JOB!

JUST YOU LISTEN TO ME, CORY, I KNOW MY ORDERS WERE TO LET YOU HAVE FULL REIN, AND YOU'VE CERTAINLY TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THAT. BUT AS CAPTAIN OF THIS EXPEDITION MY FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS GET THIS SHIP OFF THE GROUND.
SO JUST, CUT THE CHAT!!
BRING THAT WRENCH!
HOW'S IT GOING?
SLOW!
THAT BLOWBACK MELTED THE RETAINING BOLTS. IT'S A SOLID LUMP OF TARNIUM. AH! I'VE GOT SOME OF IT FREE.
I WANT TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND.
LISTEN. IF WE DON'T SHOOT OFF SOON, WE WON'T MAKE THE RENDEZVOUS WITH THE FREIGHTER.
YOU'LL MAKE IT LOWERY!
IF WE'RE NOT IN ORBIT, THEY WON'T WAIT!
3

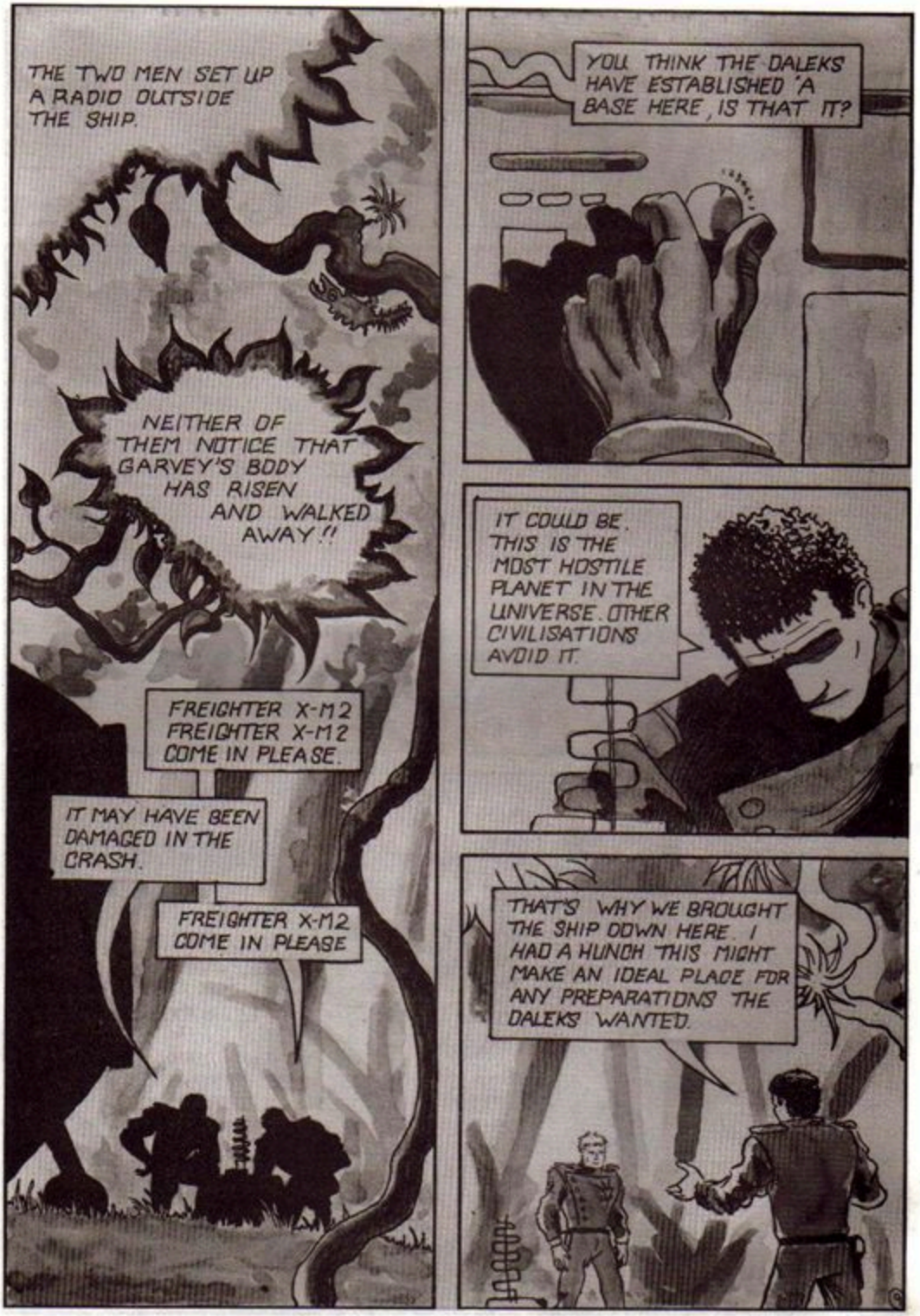
I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN! I DIDN'T WANT TO TOUCH DOWN ON THIS LOUSY PLANET IN THE FIRST PLACE, REMEMBER?
DON'T START THAT AGAIN,
JUST GET ON WITH THE JOB WILL YOU?
WHERE THE DEVIL'S GARVEY, HE SHOULD BE BACK BY NOW!
I WISH I COULD GET SOME OF IT FREE! LOOK AT IT- USELESS! GET ME A SPARE, WILL YOU? THEY'RE IN THE SHIP.
OH, IT'S NO GOOD, CORY
DON'T BOTHER. I'M JUST NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO FIX IT.

UNSEEN, GARVEY MOVES IN FOR THE KILL.....
K-KILL!
JEFF!!
Y-YOU'VE KILLED HIM!
YOU'VE KILLED JEFF!!

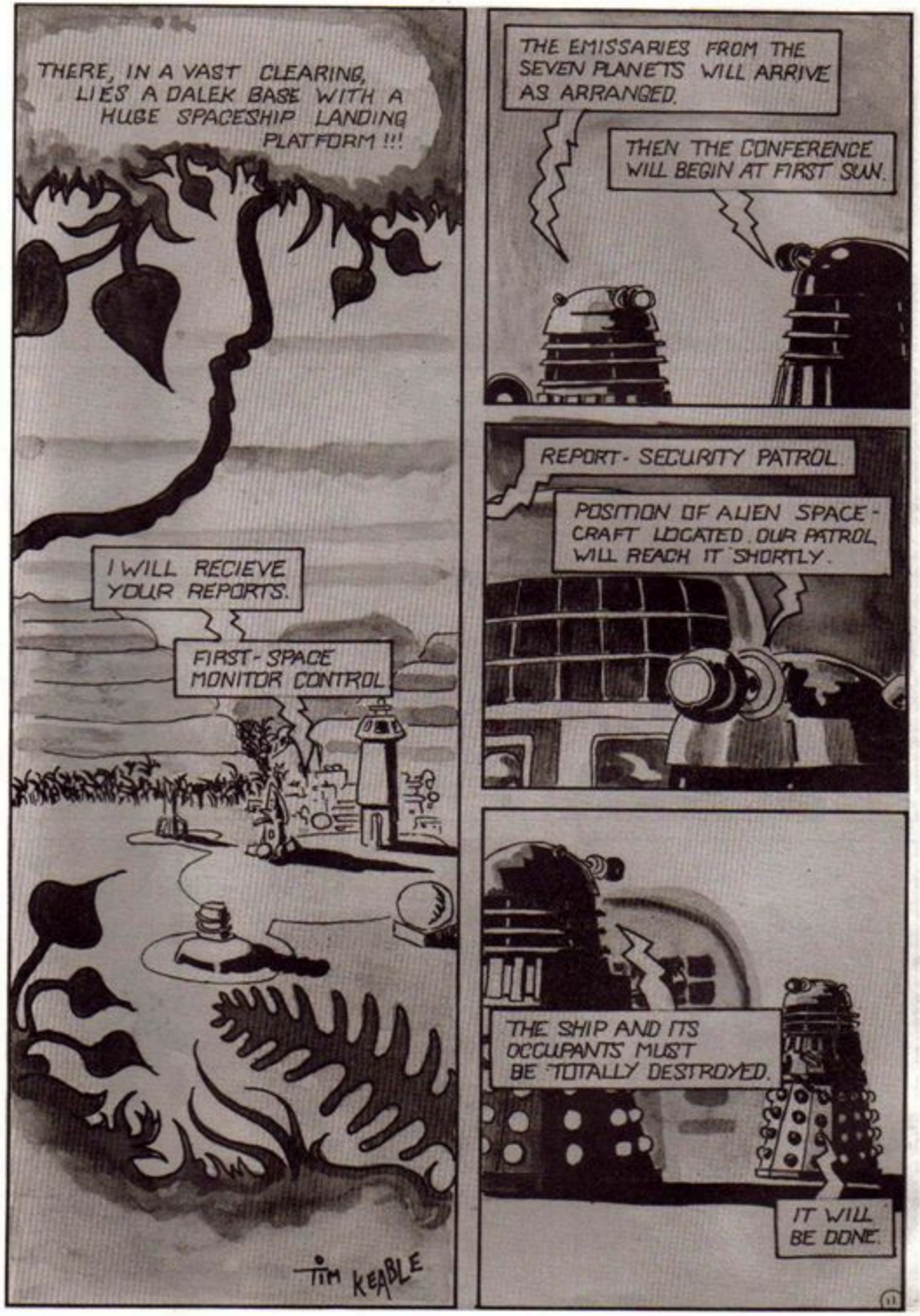
IT WAS HIM OR YOU.
YOU DIDN'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE. YOU SHOT HIM DOWN LIKE AN ANIMAL....
JUST SHOT HIM DOWN!
CORY PULLS A VICIOUS THORN FROM GARVEY'S ARM.....
A VAAGA THORN!
VAAGA?
CAREFUL! DON'T PRICK YOURSELF WITH IT!!! OR YOU'LL END UP THE WAY GARVEY IS. I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU.
LET'S GET BACK TO THE SHIP.
AS THE TWO MEN WALK AWAY, THE CORPSE'S HAND TWITCHES INVOLUNTARILY!!!

I DIDN'T INTEND TO TELL YOU ANYTHING. BUT SINCE WE'RE STUCK ON THIS PLANET, AND GARVEY IS DEAD, THERE ARE SOME FACTS THAT YOU'RE ENTITLED TO KNOW.
YES. JEFF GARVEY IS DEAD AND YOU KILLED HIM.
EXPLAIN THAT FACT. AND MAKE IT GOOD!!
SIT DOWN AND TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN. SPACE SECURITY SERVICE. LICENCED TO KILL! WELL, COUNT ME OUT!!!
THIS DOCUMENT GIVES ME THE RIGHT TO ENLIST THE AID OF ANY PERSON, CIVIL OR MILITARY.
FROM NOW ON YOU TAKE ORDERS FROM ME.
YOU'VE HEARD OF THE DALEKS?

THE DALEKS INVADED EARTH A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
THAT'S RIGHT. THEY HAVEN'T BEEN SEEN IN OUR GALAXY FOR SOME TIME. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY'VE BEEN SITTING ARDUND. IN LAST FIVE HUNDRED YEARS, THEY'VE GAINED CONTROL OF SEVENTY PLANETS IN THE NINTH GALACTIC SYSTEM.
AND FORTY MORE IN THE CONSTELLATION OF MUROS.
I DON'T SEE WHY THAT SHOULD CONCERN US. THEY'RE BOTH MILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS AWAY.
THAT'S WHAT WE THOUGHT. BUT A WEEK AGO WE HAD A REPORT FROM A CAPTAIN OF A SPACE FREIGHTER-
AS THE MEN TALK, GARVEY'S CORPSE UNDERGOES A VERY STRANGE METAMORPHOSIS.....
HIS NAVIGATOR SPOTTED A SHIP OF A TYPE NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM. HE ONLY SAW IT FOR A SECOND. BUT HE GAVE A GOOD DESCRIPTION. WHAT HE DESCRIBED WAS A DALEK SPACESHIP!!!
THE THING THAT WAS ONCE JEFF GARVEY TURNS AND MOVES OFF INTO THE JUNGLE.....


THE TWO MEN SET UP A RADIO OUTSIDE THE SHIP.
NEITHER OF THEM NOTICE THAT GARVEY'S BODY HAS RISEN AND WALKED AWAY!!
FREIGHTER X-M2 FREIGHTER X-M2 COME IN PLEASE.
IT MAY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED IN THE CRASH.
FREIGHTER X-M2 COME IN PLEASE
YOU THINK THE DALEKS HAVE ESTABLISHED A BASE HERE, IS THAT IT?
IT COULD BE. THIS IS THE MOST HOSTILE PLANET IN THE UNIVERSE. OTHER CIVILISATIONS AVOID IT.
THAT'S WHY WE BROUGHT THE SHIP DOWN HERE. I HAD A HUNCH THIS MIGHT MAKE AN IDEAL PLACE FOR ANY PREPARATIONS THE DALEKS WANTED.

DID YOU TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS HUNCH OF YOURS?
NO-ONE. NOT EVEN YOUR COMMANDER.
I JUST ASKED FOR A COUPLE OF MEN AND A ROCKET. I DIDN'T TELL HIM WHAT FOR.
THEN WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME?
BECAUSE OF THIS. A THORN FROM A VAAGA PLANT PART ANIMAL, PART VEGETABLE. LOOKS LIKE A CACTUS. THE POISON ATTACKS THE BRAIN, RATIONAL THOUGHT IS REPLACED BY AN OVERWHELMING DESIRE TO KILL. EVENTUALLY THE POISON SEEPS THROUGH THE SYSTEM AND THE VICTIM IS GRADUALLY TRANSFORMED INTO A VAAGA.
BUT WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH THE DALEKS?
THE ONLY PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE WHERE VAAGAS GROW IS ON THE DALEKS' OWN PLANET, SKARO.
IF THE VAAGAS ARE HERE, THE DALEKS ARE TOO.
UNKNOWN TO CORY AND LOWERY, ALL THE EVIDENCE THEY NEED IS BUT A STONE'S THROW AWAY. A SHORT DISTANCE THROUGH THE STEAMING FOREST, HIDDEN BY THE IMPENETRABLE FOLIAGE. CORY'S GREATEST FEARS WOULD BE REALISED.....


THERE, IN A VAST CLEARING, LIES A DALEK BASE WITH A HUGE SPACESHIP LANDING PLATFORM !!!
I WILL RECIEVE YOUR REPORTS.
FIRST - SPACE MONITOR CONTROL
TIM KEABLE
THE EMISSARIES FROM THE SEVEN PLANETS WILL ARRIVE AS ARRANGED.
THEN THE CONFERENCE WILL BEGIN AT FIRST SUN.
REPORT - SECURITY PATROL.
POSITION OF ALIEN SPACE - CRAFT LOCATED. OUR PATROL WILL REACH IT SHORTLY.
THE SHIP AND ITS OCCUPANTS MUST BE TOTALLY DESTROYED.
IT WILL BE DONE.

THE DALEK PATROL LEAVES THE BASE.
WE WILL CLOSE ON IT FROM TWO DIRECTIONS.
ANYTHING OUT THERE?
VAAGAS. THEY'RE CLOSING IN.
YOU MEAN - THEY CAN MOVE??!!
VERY SLOWLY. THEY USE THEIR ROOTS TO DRAG THEMSELVES ALONG. HOW LONG WILL YOU BE WITH THE BEACON?

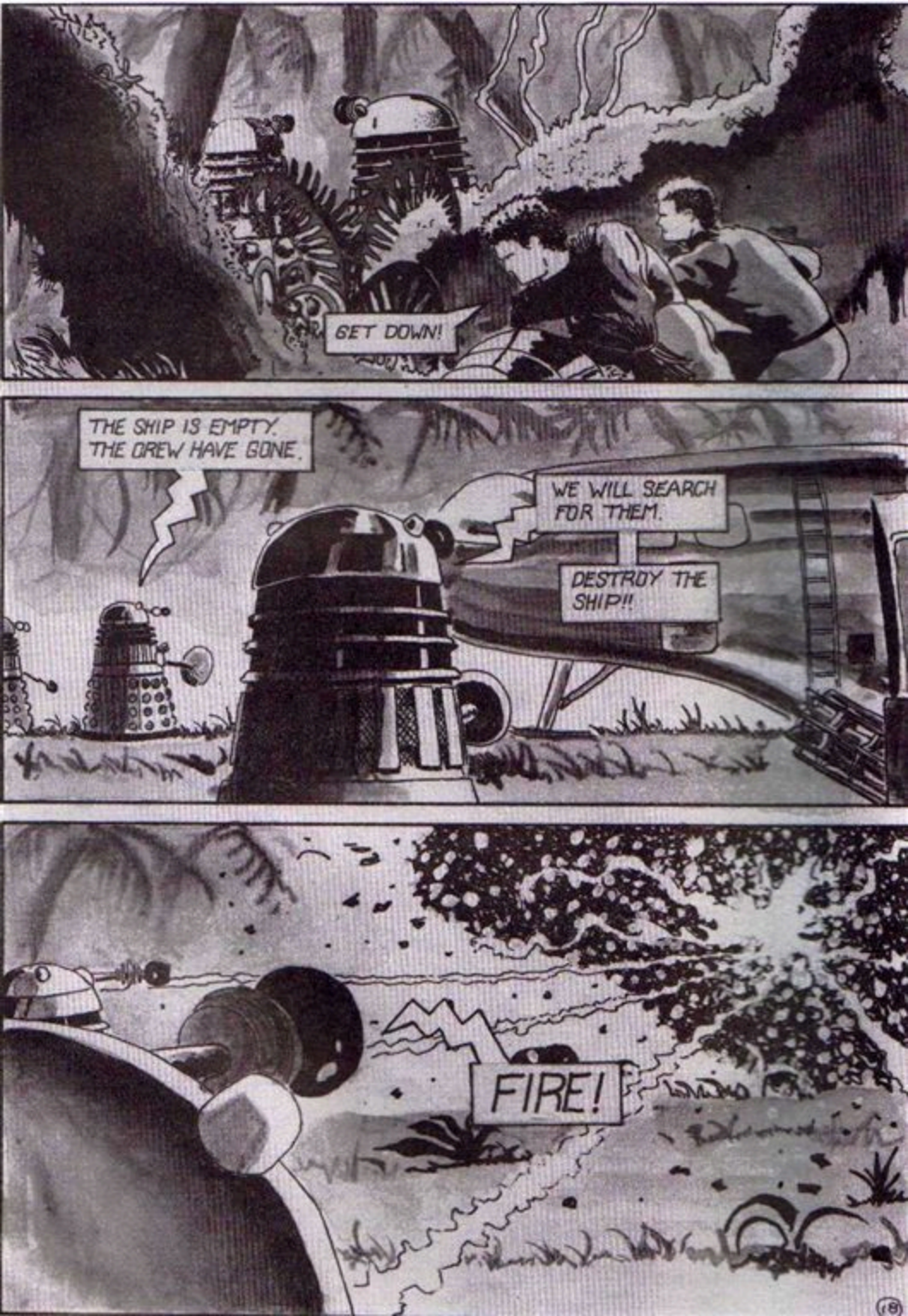
LET'S HOPE IT WASN'T DAMAGED TOO!
WE'LL SOON FIND OUT. CAN YOU FIX THIS CAPSULE?
THAT'S EASY.
IT'S JUST THE MECHANISM FOR MESSAGES. BUT IF WE SENT THE TRANSMITTER INTO SPACE WITHOUT THIS BEACON WORKING, NO-ONE WOULD KNOW WE WERE HERE. GIVE ME THE PLIERS, I'VE NEARLY FINISHED.
GOOD! I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE'VE GOT. THE DALEKS MUST KNOW WE'RE HERE, AND COME SOON.
WELL I STILL THINK YOU'RE JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS. I MEAN, JUST BECAUSE THESE VAAGA THINGS GROW HERE, THERE'S NO PROOF THAT THE DALEKS ARE TOO! COULDN'T THE VAAGAS GROW HERE NATURALLY?
NO. THEY WERE DEVELOPED IN DALEK LABORATORIES, TO GIVE THEM PROTECTION.
WELL, IF THEY'RE SYNTHETIC.....

STOP ASKING QUESTIONS AND GET ON WITH THE WORK!!!
SLOWLY, BUT SURELY, THE VAAGAS EDGE INTO THE CLEARING.
THESE THINGS ARE GETTING TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT.
I'LL FIX THEM!
IT'S NO USE LOWERY! THEY GROW AGAIN AS FAST AS YOU SHOOT!
GET BACK TO WORK!!

WHAT ABOUT THE BEACON?
WELL, IT SHOULD WORK.....
EXACTLY WHAT DOES IT DO?
YOU RECORD THE MESSAGE OR SOS ON THE CAPSULE, JUST LIKE ANY TAPE RECORDER, THE ROCKET LAUNCHER SHOOTS IT HIGH INTO ORBIT. ONCE ORBITING, IT TRANSMITS.
FROM WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE DALEKS WE'VE GOT TO BE PICKED UP.
IT'S TUNED INTO A SPECIAL FREQUENCY, AND THERE ARE LISTENING POSTS ALL OVER THE GALAXY. OUR PEOPLE SHOULD GET THE MESSAGE.
WHOOSH!
AND ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS STAY ALIVE

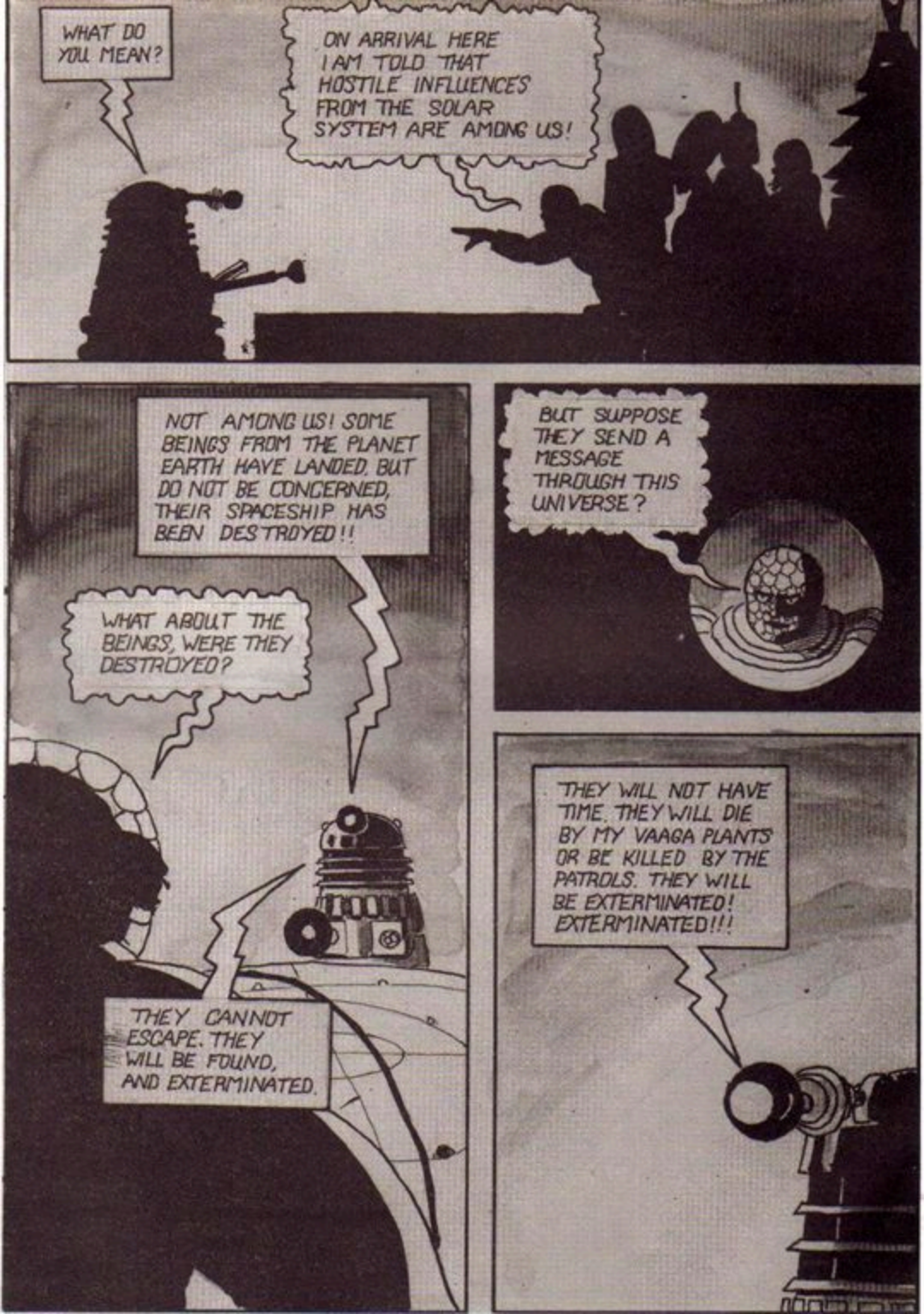
IT'S THE BIGGEST SHIP I'VE EVER SEEN! IT'S LIKE NOTHING WE'VE GOT!!
IT'S FROM ANOTHER GALAXY.

THE SHIP FROM THE PLANET GEARON.
AND THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT ALLIANCE.
WHAT'S IT DOING ON A GODFORSAKEN PLANET LIKE THIS?
THERE'S SOMETHING VERY BIG GOING ON. IF THE DALEKS ARE INVOLVED YOU CAN BET YOUR LIFE OUR WHOLE GALAXY IS IN DANGER.
THAT SHOULD JUST ABOUT DO IT. GIVE ME THE MESSAGE CAPSULE.
SHH! SOMETHING'S MOVING OUT THERE!
VAAGAS?
NO. IT'S MOVING TOO QUICKLY.
COME ON! WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!
WHAT ABOUT THE DISTRESS SIGNAL?
TAKE THE CAPSULE WITH US!

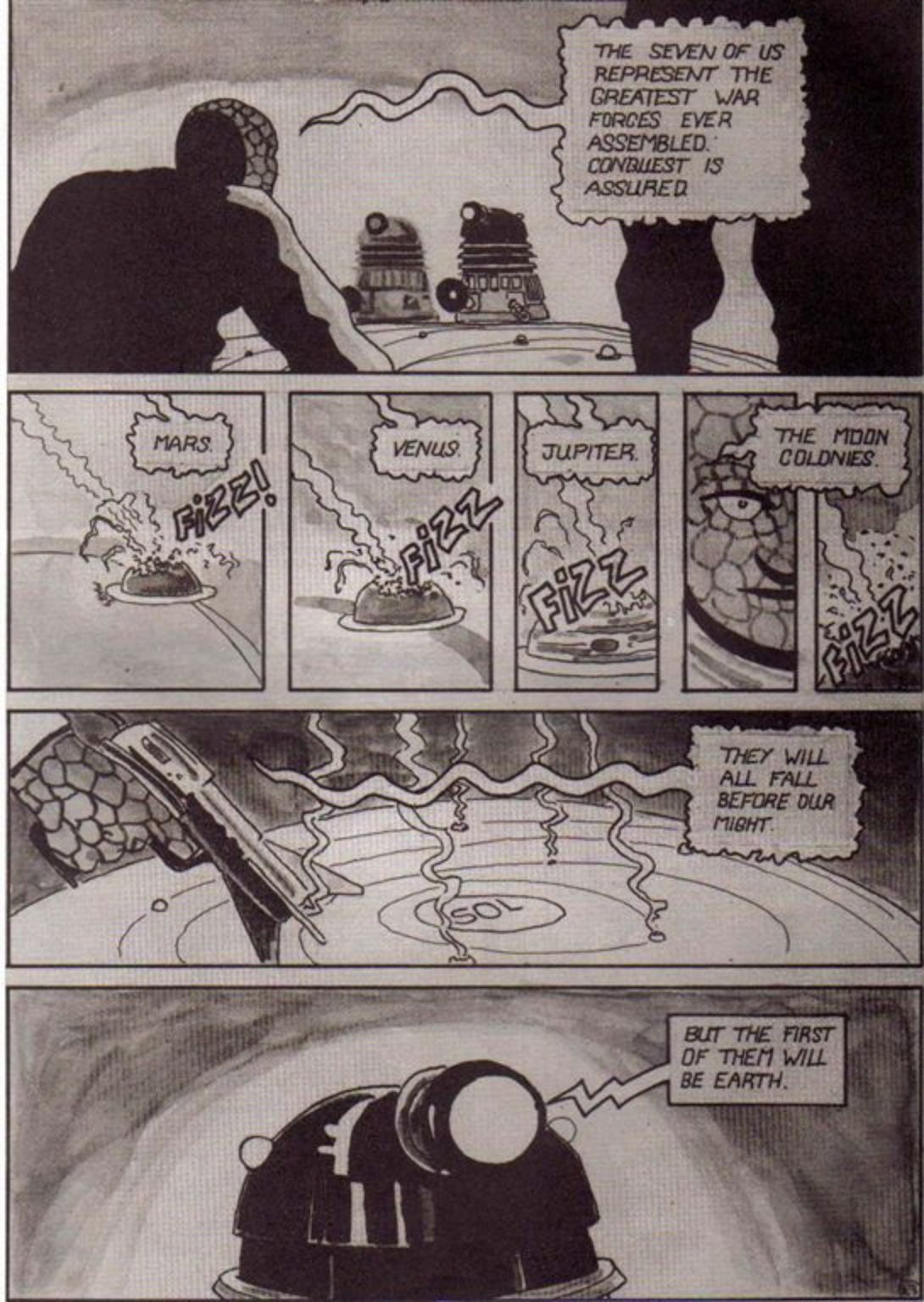

GET DOWN!
THE SHIP IS EMPTY. THE CREW HAVE GONE.
WE WILL SEARCH FOR THEM.
DESTROY THE SHIP!!
FIRE!

IT'S JUST..... FALLING APART!
COME ON!!
IN HIS HASTE, LOWERY BRUSHES PAST A VAAGA PLANT.
IN A FUTILE EFFORT, HE TRIES TO SUCK OUT THE POISON.
COME ON. THEY'LL BE LOOKING FOR US NOW!

REPORT DESTRUCTION OF ALIEN SHIP TO CONTROL.
I OBEY.
ADVISE THAT WE WE WILL NOW SEEK OUT THE CREW. ALERT ALL PATROLS.
WE OBEY
WITH THE ARRIVAL OF OUR ALLY, MALPHA, WE ARE ENOUGH. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN.
NO! IT CAN'T!
WHAT IS WRONG?
THERE IS A HOSTILE PRESENCE AMONG US!

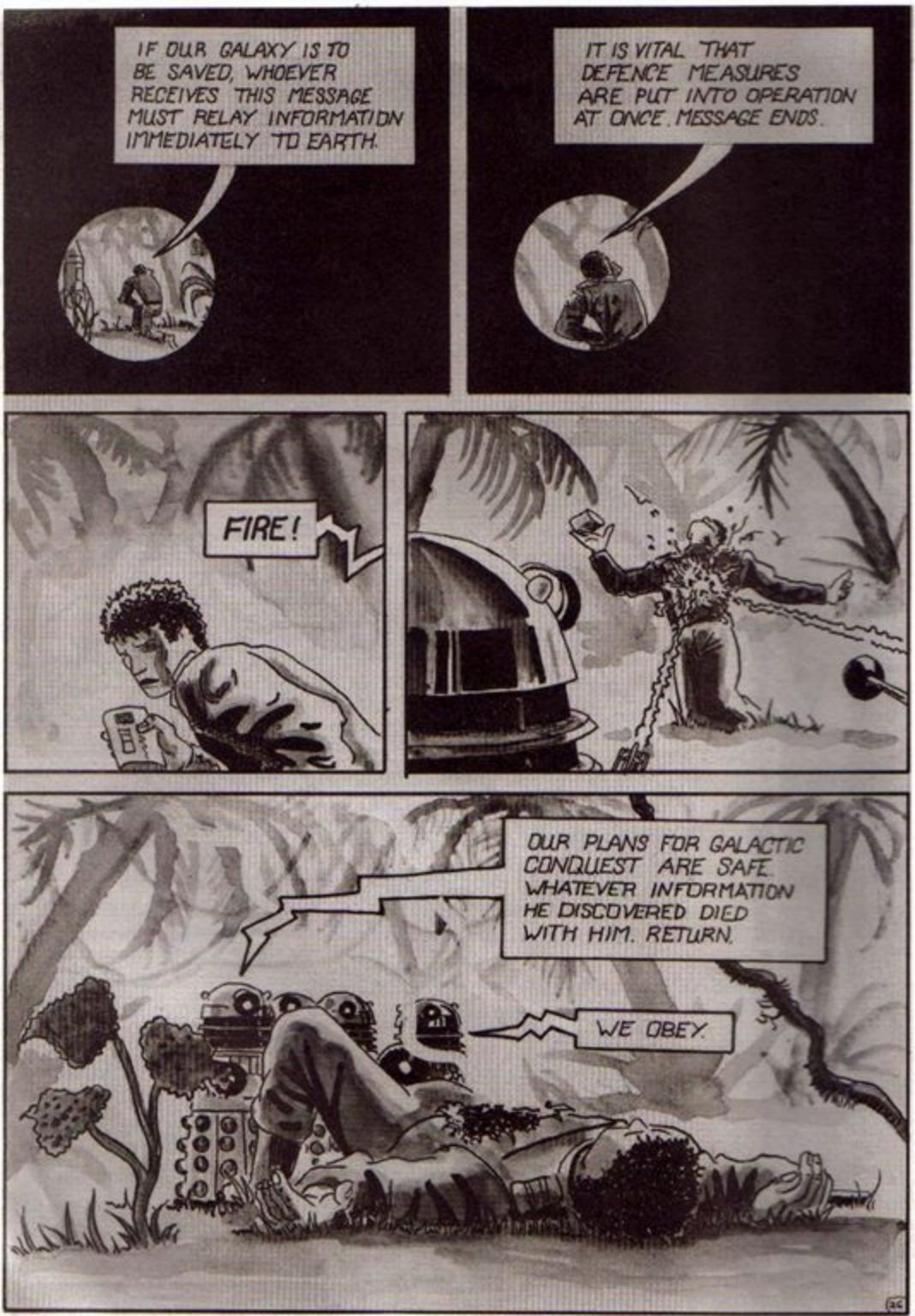

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ON ARRIVAL HERE I AM TOLD THAT HOSTILE INFLUENCES FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM ARE AMONG US!
NOT AMONG US! SOME BEINGS FROM THE PLANET EARTH HAVE LANDED. BUT DO NOT BE CONCERNED, THEIR SPACESHIP HAS BEEN DESTROYED!!
WHAT ABOUT THE BEINGS, WERE THEY DESTROYED?
THEY CANNOT ESCAPE. THEY WILL BE FOUND, AND EXTERMINATED.
BUT SUPPOSE THEY SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH THIS UNIVERSE?
THEY WILL NOT HAVE TIME. THEY WILL DIE BY MY VAAGA PLANTS OR BE KILLED BY THE PATROLS. THEY WILL BE EXTERMINATED! EXTERMINATED!!!

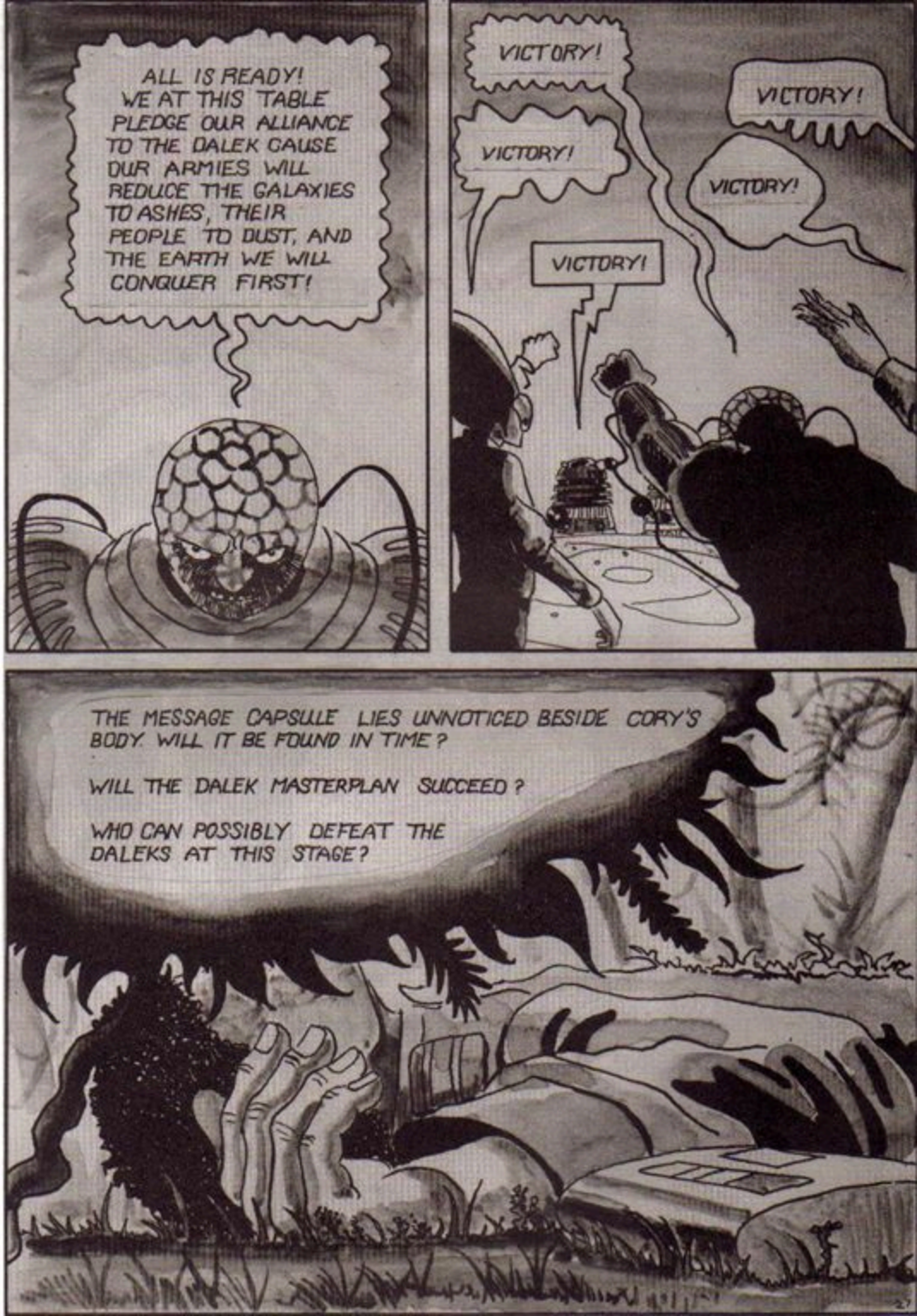
THIS WAY. COME ON!
AGREED.
AGREED!
ALL ARE AGREED. IT IS DONE. THE SEVEN GREAT POWERS OF THE OUTER GALAXIES ARE ONE!!
THIS IS INDEED AN HISTORIC MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE.
WE SEVEN, FROM THE OUTER GALAXIES, JOINING WITH THE POWER OF THE DALEKS, AGAINST THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

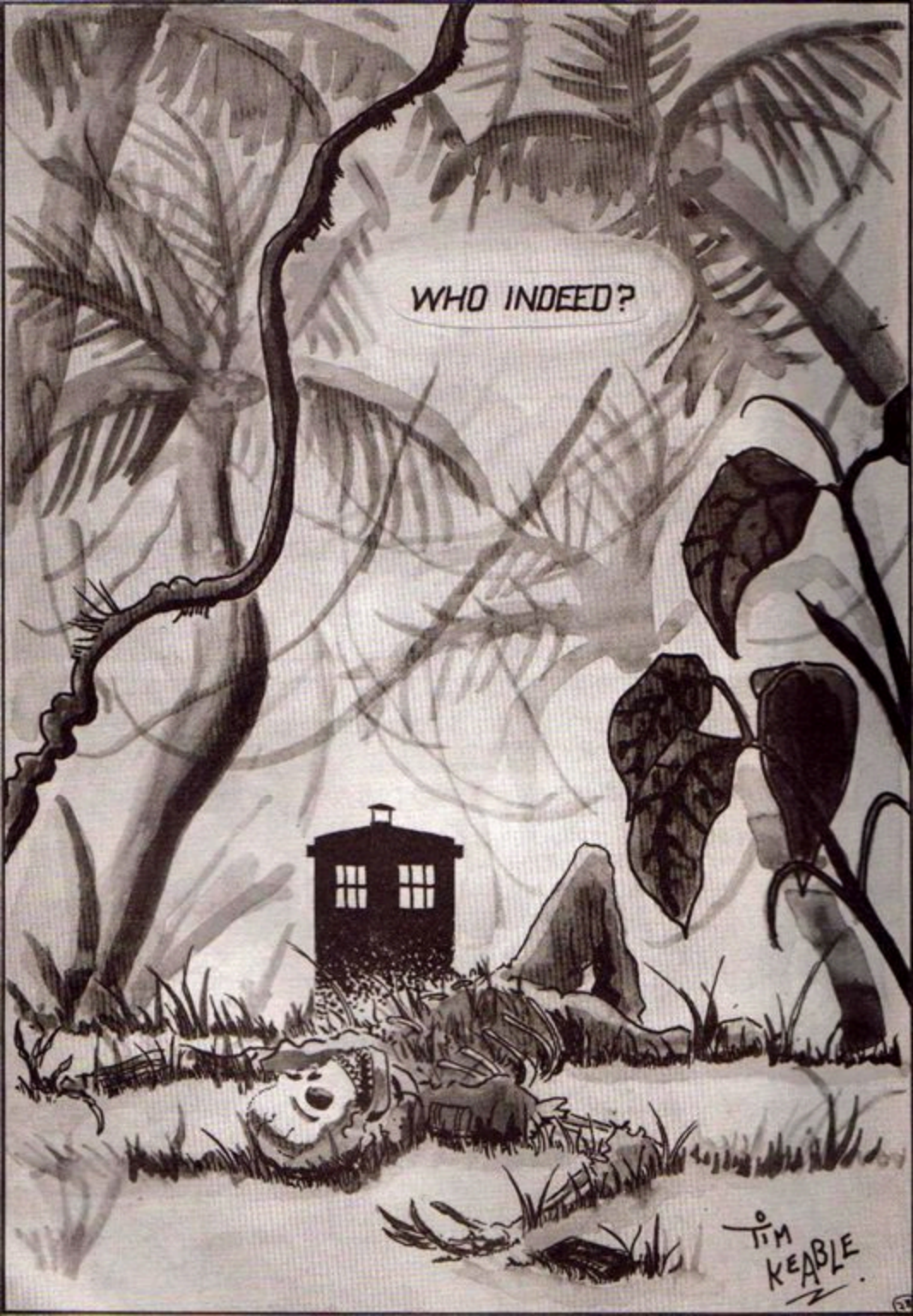

THE SEVEN OF US REPRESENT THE GREATEST WAR FORCES EVER ASSEMBLED. CONQUEST IS ASSURED.
MARS.
FIZZ!
VENUS.
FIZZ
JUPITER.
FIZZ
THE MOON COLONIES.
FIZZ
THEY WILL ALL FALL BEFORE OUR MIGHT.
SOL
BUT THE FIRST OF THEM WILL BE EARTH.

THE VENOM STARTS TO MUTATE THE CELLS IN LOWERY'S BODY.
LOSING CONTROL! M-M-MUST KI- NO!!
KILL!
WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS OFF! THERE'S A DALEK CITY DOWN THERE!
I GOT QUITE CLOSE. ENOUGH TO HEAR AN ANNOUNCEMENT OVER THE LOUD SPEAKERS!
WH-WHAT DID YOU HEAR?
THE WHOLE GALAXY IS TO BE INVADED AND DESTROYED!!!
MUST KILL!

FORGIVE ME, LOWERY!
CORY RECORDS HIS VITAL MESSAGE...
THIS IS MARC CORY, SPECIAL SECURITY SERVICES REPORTING FROM THE PLANET KEMBEL.....
THE DALEKS ARE PLANNING THE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF THE GALAXY.
TOGETHER WITH THE POWERS OF THE OUTER GALAXIES A WAR FORCE IS BEING ASSEMBLED....
SEISMIC DETECTOR IS REGISTERING.
THE CREW FROM THE ROCKET SHIP MUST BE IN THIS DIRECTION.
ARE THEY TO BE TAKEN FOR QUESTIONING?
NO. THEY ARE TO BE EXTERMINATED. DESTROY ON SIGHT. DESTROY AND EXTERMINATE.


IF OUR GALAXY IS TO BE SAVED, WHOEVER RECEIVES THIS MESSAGE MUST RELAY INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY TO EARTH.
IT IS VITAL THAT DEFENCE MEASURES ARE PUT INTO OPERATION AT ONCE. MESSAGE ENDS.
FIRE!
OUR PLANS FOR GALACTIC CONQUEST ARE SAFE. WHATEVER INFORMATION HE DISCOVERED DIED WITH HIM. RETURN.
WE OBEY.


ALL IS READY! WE AT THIS TABLE PLEDGE OUR ALLIANCE TO THE DALEK CAUSE OUR ARMIES WILL REDUCE THE GALAXIES TO ASHES, THEIR PEOPLE TO DUST, AND THE EARTH WE WILL CONQUER FIRST!
VICTORY!
VICTORY!
VICTORY!
VICTORY!
VICTORY!
THE MESSAGE CAPSULE LIES UNNOTICED BESIDE CORY'S BODY. WILL IT BE FOUND IN TIME?
WILL THE DALEK MASTERPLAN SUCCEED?
WHO CAN POSSIBLY DEFEAT THE DALEKS AT THIS STAGE?


WHO INDEED?
TIM KEABLE

T.K.